

SOMEWHERE, MILES FROM THE AUTOBOT BASE...

WINDBLADE AND OPTIMUS PRIME CONTINUE THEIR MISSION FROM THE PRIMES...



WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING A LOT OF CAVES. WHAT MAKES THIS ONE ANY DIFFERENT?

I *FEEL* THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE.

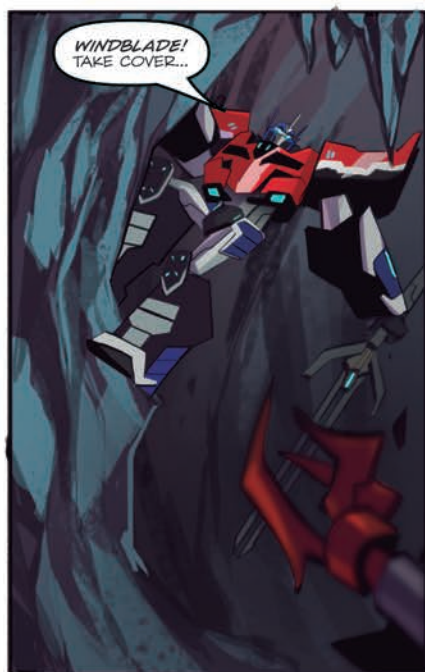




PREDAKING!



OKAY, I BELIEVE YOU.





**MEANWHILE, RUSSELL AND FIXIT REMAIN STEELIAW'S PRISONERS...**



I'M NOT SURE HOW "KEEPING IT DOWN" WILL HELP OUR PREDICAMENT.

FIXIT, COULD YOU KEEP IT DOWN? SOMEONE'S GOING TO HEAR YOU.

THE FASTEST METHOD TO REACH THE OUTER WALL IS STRAIGHT ACROSS, WHILE DRILLING AT A DOWNWARD ANGLE WOULD ONLY LENGTHEN THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO PRE-BAKE—

—LANDSCAPE—  
**FZZZZT**  
—ESCAPE!



OKAY-OKAY-OKAY!  
NEVER MIND.

I GUESS NO ONE IS GOING TO HEAR US ANYWAY—



—WHEN THEY'RE SO BUSY DRILLING OUT THERE.



THESE ENERGEN CRYSTALS HAVE NOT BEEN PROPERLY HARVESTED. YOU SHOULD TAKE MORE CARE NOT TO DAMAGE THEM.

YEAH? WELL, THAT'S THE WAY I LEARNED IT, XL-9-WHATEVER-YOUR-NAME-IS.

YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU KNOW WHERE TO HARVEST YOURSELF.



HEY, STEELJAW! I DON'T LIKE TAKING ORDERS FROM THESE VEHICON CREEP-BOTS.

AND WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS MANUAL LABOR? YOU LEFT A BUNCH OF PRISONERS BEHIND WHEN WE COULD'VE USED 'EM AS MINERS.



I RELEASED AS MANY OF YOU AS I WAS SURE I COULD TRUST.

OUR RECENT ENCOUNTER WITH MEGATRONUS SOURED MY TASTE FOR BETRAYAL.



ONCE WE'VE REFINED THE ENERGEN AND BUILT OUR NEW EMPIRE, YOU WILL ALL BE WELL REWARDED.



BUT—PRIORITIES, THUNDERHOOF.

NO VICTORY IS ASSURED UNTIL WE WIPE OUT BUMBLEBEE AND HIS TEAM.